

Opposition Case Strongly Presented

Reviews Governmental Sins Of Omission And Commission

Finances, Agriculture, Public Works, And Other Departments Aply Discussed In Budget Debate By Mr. W. Chester S. McLure.

Following is the speech delivered by Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, Fifth District of Queens, in the Budget debate, Provincial Legislature, April 2nd.

Mr. Speaker: In rising to make a few observations on the Budget that was brought down by the Premier of this House I might be allowed the privilege claimed by the last speaker—not having spoken on the Draft Address—of joining with the hon. members who have referred to our gracious Sovereign, King George V, and his fortunate restoration to health. May it be our privilege, for many years to come, to sing: "Long may he reign!" I am sure it can be said that we all agree on that point.

I would like, with your permission, to recall some of the fine tributes that have been paid by hon. members of the House to some hon. members who, during Recess, have passed to the Great Beyond. I can only add in a humble way to the eloquent remarks that have been made; but I wish, with your permission, to add my little tribute to the memory of those gentlemen who were at one time members of this Legislature.

In the passing of the Hon. Frederick J. Nash, one of the honored members of this House, the city and Province have lost a great citizen, a remarkable journalist, a man of wonderful perseverance in the work that he had in hand, and one who gave of his best in advocating the principles and policies of his newspaper, the Patriot. To know Mr. Nash as I knew him was to appreciate him; and I think he will be best remembered by the members of this Legislature in connection with his high standard of character and his methods of journalistic work. I might also say that while he was an honored member of the House he stood extremely high in the councils of his party, and was for many years one of the leaders of that party in this Province.

In the death of another hon. gentleman who was a member of this House, namely, the late Hon. Dr.

S. R. Jenkins, this city and Province have also suffered a great loss. Dr. Jenkins was a remarkable man. He was honored in his chosen profession, and he gave of his best, of his wisdom, of his cheerfulness and sympathy, to relieve the sufferings of his fellow men. He also took a great interest in every movement for the welfare of the Province or city, and was in every sense, of the word a splendid citizen.

Other Tributes.

I would also like to join in the regret that has been expressed at the passing of Mr. D. A. McDonald. All that I can say, as I did not know this gentleman, is that I join in the tribute so well voiced by my colleague with regard to Mr. McDonald, who was one of our pioneer legislators in this Province.

In the passing of these men who were honored members of this House I am also reminded that a very faithful employee of the Provincial Government has passed away. I refer to the late Mr. John MacDonald, provincial dairy inspector. That gentleman was in the employ of both the Stewart Government and the Saunders Government, and has been cut off at an early age. I think the Minister of Agriculture and every member of this Legislature will agree that the work of the provincial inspector was most carefully executed, and that he did a great deal to bring up the standard of our cheese and butter throughout the Province. I believe his efforts in this direction have been responsible for our butter bringing perhaps a little better price than it would otherwise have done. All we can say, in these cases, is that our sympathy extends to those who are left to mourn.

Boquets.

It is also customary, in referring to the Speech from the Throne, to congratulate the mover and second of the Address. These two gentle-



MR. W. CHESTER S. MCLURE, M. L. A.

men have had a great many boquets heaped upon them already, but my hon. friend from the Murray Harbor District (Mr. Campbell), and my hon. friend from Abram's Village (Mr. Darby), will probably be willing to accept one little boquet more. I may say, like the last speaker, that I had their proud function to perform at one time; it is rather a different one for a beginner, and these gentlemen acquitted themselves exceptionally well. Their speeches were to the point; they went over their subject and presented it in such a manner that a great many of the speakers who followed them took a long time to cover the same topics. Their addresses were a credit to themselves and an honor to the districts which they represent.

PRESS CRITICISM

Naturally, Mr. Speaker, the important part of this debate is the Budget. When this Budget was brought down the other evening, I was rather disappointed. I suppose it is customary for those on the opposite side to be somewhat disappointed; but when the leader of the Government arose to deliver his address I really thought we were going to have a full explanation of the financial condition of the Province. Somehow, outside interest seemed to creep in, and he wandered from his subject. Speakers, as I know myself, are liable to get off the mark that they are aiming at when they start; but when the Premier brought down his Budget, after all the eulogies that had been heaped upon him by his followers, I thought, he would approach this House beaming over with delight and pleasure at the fine things said about him. I was sadly mistaken; for in his speeches both on the Draft Address and on the Budget he seemed to be in an antagonistic mood; he threw his hat into the ring; he threw down the gauntlet, and immediately made a severe attack, in fact with a great deal of venom and spleen, upon the press of this Province. That, of course, is any man's privilege and right to do. However, I was really disappointed, I was really sorry that the leader of this House had occasion, in his own way of thinking, to do so; because, after all, the Press is the great arbiter, the only arbiter, of human difficulties. I want it understood that I am not espousing the interests of any press, but the press in general, when I say that it is the duty of every intelligent citizen to read every day a newspaper with which he does not agree. For if a man only reads the newspaper with which he agrees, he is only intensifying his own—probably wrong—conception of things, whether it be political, religious or otherwise; and it is his duty, as a responsible citizen, to accept the press, to read it and profit by it, because, after all, it is man's greatest benefactor.

We all know that Premiers come and Premiers go; but the Press daily grinds out the news of the world. And if any hon. gentleman has ambitions of becoming a great statesman or of occupying the highest position in his Province or his country, I believe it is wisdom on his part to allow himself to be disciplined by the press. We all know that even a statesman's conscience sometimes becomes warped when looking too intently at a high office that may be dangling in front of him; much less the conscience of ordinary politicians like some of ourselves. (Applause.)

Mr. Lea and the Press.

As I said, I am not espousing the cause of any particular newspaper. I have always made it my rule, ever since I have been in this House, never to attack the Press; because today we are indebted for many of the best things that build up our country, to the Press. And should they occasionally write some little article that we on this side of the House do not agree with, or make some comment that is not to the liking of my hon. friends on the other side of the House, why use such terms, in refuting it, as we heard last night from an hon. Minister of the Crown—such expressions as "contemptible," "mean," "slandrous," and "vile."

HON. MR. LEA: A point of order; I never used the word "slandrous." I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw that.

MR. MCLURE: If the hon. Minister did not use that expression, I will certainly withdraw it; but he used the words "contemptible" and "mean."

HON. MR. LEA: No, I did not say "mean."

MR. MCLURE: Well, I took them down. However, if he only used the word "contemptible," I think he should be man enough to apologize. It is, of course, any politician's right to say whatever he wishes with regard to those things; and the attack, when made, can always be refuted. So much for that.

SURPLUS OR DEFICIT?

In connection with the Budget that was brought down the other evening by the leader of the Government, we find two remarkable and outstanding statements being broadcast. We must look at these as they were shown to us, and examine them in the light of the Public Accounts. One statement was made and proven. I think beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Saunders Government had a deficit of \$246,000. The other statement that was made was that the Saunders Government had a surplus of some \$3,700. I am not going to discuss the fine definitions that have been drawn with regard to "liability," "net liability," "debt," "surplus," and "deficit." We have had definitions given us of all these things, but, after all, we may look at it in this way. If a man buys \$300 worth of farm machinery, and if he gives a note in payment for that machinery, he still has a debt of \$300. He owes somebody. He has got to pay the note at maturity. I do not think he can turn around and say: "Well, I got that machinery and I got my note accepted for \$300 for three months' at so much interest, so thank God that is paid for." He cannot say that, because the machinery is still unpaid for; the note will come due and he must meet it. In the same way, if a farmer borrows \$300 from the Bank, it may be to pay for some improvement on his farm, he still owes the Bank \$300 until it is paid for. You may argue it and twist it around any way you like—call it "debt," "liability," or "deficit"—all have practically the same meaning.

THE TRUE DEFICIT

Now let us make the comparison. In 1928, as I said, they owed \$729,185. That was an actual debt or liability, you can call it whichever you like. At the end of the fiscal year 1929 they owed \$973,234. We were told by the Premier the other night that "any school-boy in the fourth grade" could easily figure up the deficit; so by subtracting the amount due the Bank and short loan depositors in 1928 from the amount due at the end of the fiscal year 1929 we get an increased indebtedness of \$244,048.29; and I challenge any one to say that that is not correct. Those items are taken directly from the Public Accounts as they have been audited and tabled in this House. There must be added to this amount another \$2,000 difference in gasoline account, which would make the debt \$246,048.29 for year 1929.

The People Know!

What is the use, Mr. Speaker, of public men trying to tell us in this House that we are not increasing our debt? (Applause). The people of the Province know that the debt is unfortunately increasing under all Governments. I am not criticising our harshly any Government; but what is the use of trying to deceive the people and say: "We have a surplus," when we actually have a deficit year after year? There may be different ways of figuring out this deficit, but I think we might just as well accept, on both sides of the House, the Public Accounts as they are tabled. If any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House can prove to me that this Government has not increased the debt to the extent of over \$246,000 last year, I would be very glad to see how they could figure it out in the Public Accounts of the day.

HON. MR. LEPAGE: I will do it for you.

MR. MCLURE: It should have been done before this.

HON. MR. LEA: It has been done two or three times. You are evidently hard to convince.

MR. MCLURE: That is all very well. I heard a speech last night in which an hon. member tried to prove that there was no deficit, but he did not succeed very well. He might just as well have taken the Public Accounts and said: "We didn't expend this, or we didn't expend that." We contend that he cannot pick and choose the items in the accounts. If he had turned to the bank account for the two years, which is the best index, I would like to know how he could get over the statement I have made. In order to refute that statement you must deny the veracity or the truthfulness of your whole Public Accounts, because those amounts are due the Bank and the short loan depositors. The latter item, it is true, is not as large as it was in 1928;

Factory-fresh and Fragrant

"A man buys a handy pocket pack of Marguerites. He smokes some—gives some away—then when the pack is empty—it goes overboard! The handy pack keeps cigars factory-fresh and fragrant—and when it's empty it's thrown away. It's a good reminder, too, because a man always knows that if he has no pack in his pocket—he has no cigars!"



The beloved

BUY MARGUERITES IN HANDY PCKET PACKS OF FIVE CIGARS

TUCKETTS MARGUERITE

Now Foil-wrapped—But Still 10 Cents

MR. MCLURE: It should have been done before this.

HON. MR. LEA: It has been done two or three times. You are evidently hard to convince.

MR. MCLURE: That is all very well. I heard a speech last night in which an hon. member tried to prove that there was no deficit, but he did not succeed very well. He might just as well have taken the Public Accounts and said: "We didn't expend this, or we didn't expend that." We contend that he cannot pick and choose the items in the accounts. If he had turned to the bank account for the two years, which is the best index, I would like to know how he could get over the statement I have made. In order to refute that statement you must deny the veracity or the truthfulness of your whole Public Accounts, because those amounts are due the Bank and the short loan depositors. The latter item, it is true, is not as large as it was in 1928;

why, I do not know. Surely it was not that the rate of 4 1/2 per cent discouraged the depositors. It may be that they lost faith in the Government. I am inclined to think, however, that it was due to the collapse of the stock exchange, because we blame everything that has happened since October on that unfortunate affair. But there is no doubt that the debt has been increased to the amount that I have stated; and there is no use in attempting to hide it or to camouflage it. (Applause.)
(To be Continued.)

The United States is now the largest consumer of camphor in the world

Miss Julia Stokes died recently at Newport, Isle of Wight, aged 103

Bus traffic in the Netherlands-East Indies is declining

FOR AS LITTLE AS \$1595 AT THE FACTORY you can buy a seasoned STUDEBAKER EIGHT

—costs less than 14 different sixes but will be worth more than a six when you trade it in



WHEN you turn to eight-cylinder power with its smoothness, its flexibility and its higher resale value, let the eight you choose be sure and seasoned. Studebaker, Builder of Champions, has built 100,000 Eights. These Eights hold the greatest world and international records, and more American stock car records than all other makes combined. A small down payment gives you command of this champion performance.

Studebaker Eights Cost no More to Buy or to Operate

Dictator Eight Club Sedan \$1595 Commander Eight 4-Door Sedan \$1995 Dictator Eight 4-Door Sedan \$1710 President Eight 4-Door Sedan \$2590 Studebaker also offers three lines of champion sixes from \$1135 to \$2050. Prices at the factory. Gov't takes extra.

MOORE BROS.,

Now on Display 256 Queen Street

The tire of 47 1/2% greater tread strength

A tire built for today's car, today's high speed driving and sudden braking on the abrasive surfaces of asphalt and concrete... such is the "GP" Gum Cushioned Tire with its new tough "Resisto" tread and its 47 1/2% greater wear resistance... The famous Gum Cushion feature completes a tire built to resist all the shocks and wear of the road... Sold at all Gum Cushion Tire Stations at standard prices.



Free Road Guide for Motorists Contains accurate maps and interesting information for the touring motorist. Take this advertisement to the nearest Gum Cushion Tire Station and receive a copy, free.

Gutta Percha & Rubber, Limited TORONTO

The Largest All-Canadian Rubber Company Founded in 1883

"GUTTA PERCHA" GUM CUSHIONED TIRES

Jenkins Service Station Bruce Stewart & Co., Ltd. The Rogers Hardware Company, Limited.

Edgar Whitlock Tanton Brothers, Limited.